OHIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

NEWS BULLETIN APRIL, 1931 No. 1

Ohio Library Association Officers for 1930-31

PAUL NORTH RICE, *President,* Dayton Public Library. ETHEL MAC DOWELL, *Secretary,* Ashtabula Public Library. GEORGE J. BLAZIER, *Treasurer,* Marietta College Library. *Vice-Presidents:* EARL N. MANCHESTER, Ohio State University Library. CORINE A. METZ, Akron Public Library. HELEN L. KRAMER, Marion Public Library.

EXECUTIVE BOARD — *The Officers and Past Presidents:* LILLIE WULFEKOETTER, Public Library of Cincinnati. JULIAN S. FOWLER, Oberlin College Library. BESSIE SARGEANT SMITH, Cleveland Public Library.

1930-31 Committees

Membership Committee
George J. Blazier, Marietta College Library

Library Extension Committee
Miss Mary R. Cochran, Cincinnati Public Library

General Legislative Committee
Carl Vitz, Toledo, *Chairman*
Miss Linda A. Eastman, Cleveland
Julian S. Fowler, Oberlin
Chalmers Hadley, Cincinnati
Herbert S. Hirshberg, Western Reserve
Miss Georgie G. Mc Afee, Lima
Judge Chauncey Newcomer, Bryan

Sub-committee on County Library Legislation
Chalmers Hadley, Cincinnati, *Chairman*
Herbert S. Hirshberg, Western Reserve
Miss Georgie G. Mc Afee, Lima
Miss Mildred W. Sandoe, Xenia

Sub-committee on Penalties for mutilation, theft and detention of Public Library property
Miss Louise Prouty, Cleveland, *Chairman*
Miss Janet L. Hannaford, Dayton
Miss Mildred Moore, Cleveland
Miss Rena Reese, Cincinnati
Miss Blanche C. Roberts, Columbus
Miss Jessie Welles, Toledo

WHILE THE President of the Ohio Library Association is responsible for the matter included in this bulletin, Miss Olive Jones of the Ohio State University Library is responsible for the bulletin having been issued at all. She it was who made a forceful claim that the members of the Association had a right to be informed as to who were the officers and committee members for the year and what they were doing.

WORK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The most important work of the Ohio Library Association, during this year, is undoubtedly the work of the Legislative Committee. Mr Carl Vitz, Librarian of the Toledo Public Library, generously agreed to serve as Chairman of this Committee for another year. He did this in spite of knowing that it would entail many trips to Columbus and an endless amount of correspondence.

It is difficult for the Committee to make any definite report at this time, but much thought and hard work has already brought some progress along the following lines:

1. Support of School District Libraries after January 1, 1931

The constitutional amendment passed in November 1929 repealed the law exempting the school district library levy from the fifteen mill limitation. The effect

of this will be to force this library levy within the fifteen mills and it will put it into close competition with county, city and school requirements inasmuch as in most cases these now fully occupy the fifteen mills. For any or all of the various tax receiving political sub-divisions to release funds sufficient to make up the customary tax library levy will be difficult. See Opinion No. 3003 issued by the Attorney General, Februrary 27, 1931. A copy of this was sent to all school district libraries. Extra copies may be obtained from Mr Vitz.

The Legislative Committee tried hard to persuade Governor Cooper to call an extra session of the Legislature in 1930 to consider the possibility of extending for a biennium the exemption otherwise expiring at the end of 1930. Governor Cooper felt that there would be criticism of a "lame duck" special session even for so good a purpose and the amendment took effect January 1, 1931.

The only hope now for proper support for school district libraries is in the new legislation in connection with the new general tax law. Libraries are very fortunate in having Mr Robert A. Taft appointed Chairman of the Legislative Special Committee to draft a general tax law, as he is already conversant with the difficulties that school district libraries are in and is very sympathetic with them. Mr Taft believes that there must be some new additional method of taxation such as a tax on intangibles, a mortgage tax, or income tax. He believes that these taxes will probably be collected with the county as a unit of collection and that income for libraries might be the first claim on this county fund. The O. L. A. Legislative Committee is working with Mr Taft to devise minimum and maximum standards that will insure to each library an income sufficient to continue its accustomed measure of service.

2. County Library Law

Mr Chalmers Hadley and the Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Public Library have been working over a county library bill that would enable the Cincinnati school district library to become once more a library for Hamilton County. Their suggested bill was referred to Mr Vitz and the Legislative Committee for modifications that would make it more acceptable as a general county library bill for the State. This Senate Bill # 61 was introduced by Senator Taft and was passed by the Senate and promptly sent to the Assembly where it had its first hearing before the County Affairs Committee and was recommended for passage without opposition. It was passed by the House on April 9th and is ready for the Governor's signature.

3. Penalty Bill

A sub-committee of the General Legislative Committee on Penalties for mutilation, theft and detention of public library property, Miss Louise Prouty of Cleveland, Chairman, has drafted a Penalty bill. This bill as House bill # 229 was introduced by Mrs Hyre and discussed by the House Library Committee which unanimously approved the bill and recommended it to the House for passage. It came up for vote March 18th, met with opposition and was referred back to the Library Committee. Another hearing was held March 25th and the bill was approved. It did not come up for a vote in the House.

4. State Library

Mr Ackerman of the State Senate has introduced bill # 36 relative to the transfer of the State Library to the State University. This bill is still in the Senate Committee on Institutions and has been referred to a sub-committee for further study. The sub-committee is charged to inquire of the University officials as to their attitude and as to any complications that it might cause them. The Legislative Committee of the Ohio Library Association has not as yet had a chance to express itself very definitely on this bill.

This bill had a hearing on March 17th before the Education Committee, but no action was taken by the Committee at that time.

There is also a bill in the Senate introduced by Mr Lowery, to create a State Board of Education to take over the State Department of Education and amongst other duties to serve as a State Library Board.

Neither of these bills were passed.

5. Document Distribution

No effort was made to draft a bill to meet this need, due to the disturbed conditions in the State Library.

6. Pension Legislation

The Committee soon realized that this subject was too complex and too important and needed more careful study and presentation to the whole Association than was possible this winter. Also this year is a poor year for any such legislation.

APPOINTMENT OF MR NEWMAN AS STATE LIBRARIAN

The President of the Ohio Library Association, having protested in the name of the Association against the appointment of Mr John Henry Newman as librarian of the State Library, feels that a report of his protest should be made at this time to the Association.

On Tuesday morning, February 3rd, he was shocked to learn that the State Library Board had re-appointed Mr John Henry Newman as State Librarian. Later it developed that only four members of the Library Board had been present at the meeting and that Mrs Dwight Young of Dayton, the newest member of the Board, had not been notified of the meeting although she had been appointed the very last of December, by Governor Cooper, and had received her commission early in January. She protested that the election of Mr Newman was not legal as she had not been present or even notified of the meeting. In response to her protest, Dr John L. Clifton, State Director of Education and Chairman of the State Library Board, called a second meeting of the Board on Monday, February 9th.

When there have been political appointments of the State Librarian, in the past, the Library Association has not usually known that they were being considered until the appointments were actually made. This time it seemed proper to make a vigorous protest since the formal election of Mr Newman had not yet been made. On February 7th the President sent the following letter to Mr Clifton.

On behalf of the Ohio Library Association I wish to express the deep regret of its members that there has once again been a political appointment to the office of state librarian. The members of the Ohio Library Association feel that the state librarian should be a man with professional library training and with the sort of library experience that will give him the chance to be a leader in the library affairs of the State. Many of our small town libraries look to the State Library for guidance. Many rural districts which now have no library facilities might have county or town libraries organized if the library movement were properly fostered by the state librarian.

The librarians of the State are heartily ashamed of the way that the state librarianship has been made a football by politics. For almost 20 years, with the single exception of the term of Mr Herbert S. Hirshberg, the State Library has had as its head a political appointee. We librarians believe that there is no more reason for the state librarian to be of the same political faith as the Governor than for the president of the State University.

The trained librarians of the State felt that you and the other members of the library board were unmindful of the best interests of our State when two years ago, under a Republican governor, you appointed Mr George Mc Cormick, an untrained librarian, as state librarian. We feel that the library board has again been unmindful of the best interests of the State when under a Democratic governor you have appointed an untrained librarian, John Henry Newman, as state librarian. We cannot believe that you and your colleagues are wholly ignorant of the lamentable condition of the State Library under the two previous regimes of John Henry Newman.

There seems to be at least a possible question as to the legality of the appointment of John Henry Newman as state librarian. If the matter comes up for another vote, in the name of the

1,100 members of the Ohio Library Association, let me respectfully beg you and the other members of the library board not to prostitute your high office by continuing to make the state librarianship a political reward for "a deserving Democrat or a deserving Republican."

On February 12th Mr Carl Vitz and a number of the members of his Legislative Committee were in Columbus to attend a hearing of a county library bill. After the hearing, at the suggestion of the president, the librarians present became an informal committee to protest against the appointment of Mr Newman. An attempt was made to get in touch with Dr Clifton but he unfortunately was out of town. An interview was secured with Governor White. The following were present at the interview:

Miss Linda A. Eastman, *Librarian,*
Cleveland Public Library

Miss Mildred Sandoe, *Librarian,*
Greene County Library

Mr Will H. Collins, *Librarian,*
Akron Public Library

Mr Herbert S. Hirshberg, *Director,*
Western Reserve Libraries

Mr C. R. Wilson, *President,*
Ohio Libraries Trustees Association

Mr Carl Vitz, *Librarian,*
Toledo Public Library

Mr Paul North Rice, *Librarian,*
Dayton Public Library

A very vigorous expression on the part of the Committee was made of the important work that could be done by a State Librarian if he were a trained, efficient librarian rather than a political appointee. The Governor of the State was told that Mr Newman had proved himself completely inadequate in his former administrations. While the Governor did not commit himself as to his attitude towards removing the State Librarianship from politics, he did say that the Committee had convinced him that the position was a more important one than he had previously understood.

On Saturday, February 7th, the following letter was sent by the President to Mr L. M. Smith, Bucyrus; Mr Earl R. Leach, Lima; Mr Richard R. Fillbrandt, Cincinnati; and Mrs Dwight Young, Dayton, who constitute the State Library Board, of which Dr Clifton is chairman by virtue of holding the office of director of Education.

On behalf of the Ohio Library Association I wish to express to you the feeling of the members that it would be a calamity for the library interests of the State if your board reaffirms the appointment of John Henry Newman as state librarian. Eleven hundred librarians, members of the Ohio Library Association, feel that they have a right to look to the the State Library for help and for guidance. However, during the past 20 years,except under the regime of Mr Herbert S. Hirshberg, the State Library has signally failed to assume its proper position of leadership in library affairs of the State.

In other states where there are effective state libraries, such as New York, California and Indiana, the incumbent is not a political appointee. The most conspicuously successful state librarian in the country is undoubtedly James I. Wyer of New York, who has held office continuously for over 20 years regardless of the political party in power in the state.

Dr Clifton is quoted in today's paper as saying that "it is the Governor's privilege to choose the members of his official family and that the board will not reject his suggestion that they appoint Newman. I will reply to any charges of politics on the part of the board," said Mr Clifton, "by pointing out that a Democratic board approved Cooper's nomination of McCormick, a Republican, without question, because it felt it was his privilege to choose those who worked for him."

I would respectfully call to your attention that the state librarian is not an official appointed by the Governor, but that the whole responsibility of his appointment rests on the library board of which you are

one. If you fail to shoulder your constitutional responsibility and help to secuure the appointment as state librarian a man who has twice deplorably failed to administer successfully the state library, the librarians of the state will feel that you have proved unfaithful to a public trust.

The Ohio Library Association is a non-partisan body. It is sponsoring no particular candidate for the position of state librarian. It cares not at all to what political faith a librarian adheres. It demands, however, that political appointments such as that of Mr Mc Cormick and Mr Newman shall cease and that the State Library board shall conduct the library as a public trust and not as a source of political patronage.

When the Library Board met on Monday, February 16 th, Mrs Dwight Young asked those present whether they had recieved the letter of protest from the President of the Ohio Library Association. They did not deny having received such a letter but Mrs Young was the only member of the Board who did not vote for the confirmation of the appointment of Mr John Henry Newman.

While the protests of the Association against the appointment of Mr Newman were ineffective, they have at least placed the Association definitely in the position of vigorously protesting against the State Library continuing to be made a political football.

There is some hope, indeed, that the protest may bear fruit in the near future. The Dayton Daily News for April 22 nd reported that "Governor White is to issue a statement within a few days, announcing that the complete management of the State Library is to be delegated to the board of trustees and that the Governor has decided to give the trustees authority to divorce the State Library from politics. It also is intimated that when the trustees meet again, about May 15, sweeping changes are to be made in the management of the State Library in an endeavor to clear up a situation that has drawn the fire of the Ohio Library Association and kindred organizations."

Ohio Library Association Treasurer's Report

October 15, 1930 — April 15, 1931

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand October 15, 1930	$ 1,958.61
Receipts from dues	151.00
Rentals from exhibits, Dayton	208.00
Share of convention cost	
Indiana Library Association	69.96
Indiana Trustees Association	23.32
Sale of programs	.25
Interest	18.33
	$ 2,429.47

EXPENDITURES

Ohio Library Association meeting at Dayton	613.69
President's Office	4.24
Treasurer's Office (supplies)	37.46
Legislative Committee (traveling)	43.04
Legislative Committee (office)	20.00
Executive Committee	53.36
American Library Ass'n. (Sustaining membership 1931)	100.00
American Library Association Chapter dues	47.60
	$ 1,019.39

BALANCE ON HAND APRIL 15, 1931 $ 1,410.08

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Miss Mary R. Cochran of the Public Library of Cincinnati, Chairman of the Library Extension Committee, has planned a series of district meetings for the discussion of practical problems, for reviews of new books, and for messages from the officers of the Association.

CINCINNATI *Tuesday, May 19.*
Enquirer Building, 617 Vine Street
(next to Main Library)

COLUMBUS *Wednesday, May 20.*
Public Library, Grant and State Streets

TOLEDO *Thursday, May 21.*
West Toledo Branch Library, Sylvania Avenue and Willys Parkway

CLEVELAND *Friday, May 22.*
Public Library, 325 East Superior Avenue

Luncheons will be arranged at dining-rooms near the meeting places.

The sessions will be held from ten to twelve and from two to four. The same program, but with different speakers, will be followed at all meetings. It is suggested that the libraries situated between two cities send representatives to both meetings.

The cities were chosen because they are easy to reach by train or motor bus and because they offer opportunities for shopping and entertainment for those who can linger to enjoy them.

OHIO LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION

The Ohio Library Trustees Association that was organized at the Dayton meeting last fall is fast becoming an effective organization under the leadership of its president, Charles R. Wilson, of Stowe, and its secretary, Mrs P. H. Flynn, of Xenia.

A meeting of the Association was held in Columbus on December 18th when the Executive Board of the Ohio Library Association were meeting. An active interest has been taken by the officers of the Trustees Association in the precarious position of the school district libraries under the new tax amendment. President Wilson also joined representatives of the O. L. A. in the visit to Governor White to protest against the appointment of Mr Newman as State Librarian.

THE O. L. A. AND THE A. L. A.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ohio Library Association in Columbus it was voted to take out a Sustaining membership in the American Library Association for the year 1931. In addition, Mr Blazier as Treasurer has paid Chapter dues of $47.60. The O. L. A. can certainly feel that it is doing its share in supporting the present A. L. A. campaign when it contributes $147.60 in one year.

MEETING PLACE FOR 1931

At the meeting of the Executive Committee in Columbus it was voted to hold the next annual meeting of the Ohio Library Association in Marietta during the week of September 28, 1931. This decision was made because Marietta offers unusual attractions as a meeting place, because that region of the State has not had an annual meeting for some years and in the hope that we might be able to arrange a joint meeting with the West Virginia Library Association. An invitation to the West Virginia Library Association to meet with the Ohio Library Association at Marietta has already gone out, but no reply has as yet been received.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr George J. Blazier of the Marietta College Library, Chairman of the Membership Committee, has already started his campaign for 1931 members. Last year there were 1,100 paid-up members, a net gain of 76 over the preceding year. If the Ohio Library Association is to be a powerful agency to foster the library interests of the State every Librarian in the State should be a member.

Can you help Mr Blazier by securing additional members in your library or community?

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